

ONE STRUGGLE

south florida



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an anti-capitalist/anti-imperialist initiative

CAPITALISM IS WAR

Ten years in Afghanistan. Almost nine years in Iraq. Had enough?

The United States has never truly been at peace. Where there is no justice, there is no true peace.

Money and weapons.

According to the War Resister's League nearly half (48%) of the 2012 budget is allocated to military spending. It's been this way for years. Many of us know entire towns and regions where the economy is built on military spending, either directly, or through contracts. People in this society are kept dependent upon, and therefore invested in, military spending.

Those who would rule need a show of force.

"Making the world safe for democracy" is a propaganda phrase that Woodrow Wilson used in order to convince Americans to give their lives in the first "World War". Over 35 million people died in a struggle that saw the ruling elites of the Imperialist European powers and the United States compete for power and property.

At the end of the second "World War" Japan was devastated. It was certainly in no position to inflict any serious damage on its enemies. Japan was defeated. Still the United States wanted to demonstrate its might to the world. Especially to a Soviet Union that might lead a challenge to U. S. domination of the world. The United States launched atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands. The great arms race began. Nations of the world became obsessed with arming themselves at any price.

When the United States invaded Iraq in March of 2003, its leaders were not content to subdue Baghdad. Instead, the world witnessed a very purposeful display of "shock and awe". Intimidation was, and still is, the point.

**Capitalism needs to exploit.
Exploitation needs muscle.**

Time and again, throughout history, capitalism has exploited working people and natural resources, and oppressed working people to the advantage of those who accrue wealth and use that wealth to exploit and oppress more and gain more wealth. It's a vicious cycle. When will it end? When working people work together to end it.

Capitalists know this. Under the right circumstances, workers may be allowed to petition for more money, better conditions, benefits, etc. When the bosses concede the raise, the conditions, the benefits, it's trumpeted as a triumph of the system. As long as workers remember who's boss, they are allowed to struggle for better conditions. As long as workers are on the leash that the bosses control, there is relative "peace". Any time workers organize to challenge power they are brutally oppressed.

When this need to exploit workers and resources outgrows national boundaries, and the exploitation is resisted, a reason is found or created to send in the troops. Often it's presented as a big, difficult to define mission with many targets, such as a war against communism, a war on drugs, or a war against terrorism.

Capitalism is war.

Capitalism must grow. It must exploit more and more. There is no foreseeable end to the destruction as long as there is something to destroy. Resistance will be necessary for survival. There will be resistance. Committed resistance will be met with violence. In order to liberate humanity and save the planet, we will meet their violence with resistance again and again until we win!

Oppose war? Defeat capitalism.

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Toward an Anti-Capitalist/ Anti-Imperialist Mass Movement: Organizing at the Intermediate Level

Mass movements can not be conjured from thin air or willed into being, no matter how correct our ideas or determined our hearts. They arise in response to intolerable social problems, congeal through collective practice and theoretical work, and harden through continuous, escalating struggle.

In the U.S., as in many parts of the world, the 1960s saw the birth of a radical mass movement with revolutionary currents running through it. It didn't burst onto the scene fully formed, but developed through twists and turns, suffering painful lessons, betrayals, mistakes and defeats on the way. It also celebrated victories which, like waves pushed by storm winds, grew ever larger and more powerful until the idea of revolution rose in the public consciousness as a tangible possibility.

As the movement found its footing, participants became skilled in tactics and honed their strategies. Small and vague collectives coalesced and matured into national, multi-level, unified fighting machines.

When the Vietnam War ended, the sense of personal urgency dissipated for many in the U.S. The declining waves of struggle ultimately beat themselves out on the barren shore of the 1980s bubble economy. The pretense of growth based on debt was enough to bribe much of the population into passivity. The loss of socialism in China and the collapse of the Soviet Union (which, their own natures aside, had acted as counterweights to U.S. hegemony) broke the spirits of most of the rest.

Today the global system faces a convergence of crises, but this time there is no economic growth (real or pretend) on the horizon. The system shows no viable possibilities for a future. Capitalism is played out.

Yet the ruling class hangs onto power, squeezing the last bits of profit out

of us and the natural world, not hesitating to kill us in the process. If we're to save ourselves and the planet, we must eliminate the capitalist/imperialist system once and for all.

Opposing the system can, and does, take many forms. Many types of organizations are arising and will arise, with different visions of the future and different strategies on getting there. Some will contribute positively to the overall project; others will commit errors of varying degrees of severity. Diversity in our approaches and ideas is our strength, and mutual respect and non-sectarianism will help us learn from one another, and advance hand-in-hand.

Together, each contributing in our own way, and in tandem with our independent work, we can build a movement strong enough to accomplish the one essential task we all share: to end capitalism/imperialism.

We need to build organizations to magnify our power

Organizations are structured relationships between people who understand that collective power can affect society on a level that atomized individuals can not.

Organizations begin with two people and a plan, and go through a process of development as surely as we all go through the stages of infancy, youth and maturity. As the system cracks apart, it intensifies the suffering of all of us living inside the thrashings of its final stage. In response to this new level of urgency to find a way out and create alternatives, people are exploring many possible courses of action. Small, loosely defined collectives are springing up all over.

How will they coalesce into a combative mass movement capable of sweeping away the entire system of global capitalism?

We're still at the initial stage of the current round of systemic crisis-and-response, attempting to come into being as a social force. Since a mass movement can not spring whole into existence, but will instead be forged through practice we have yet

to perform, we should organize on a basis corresponding to our current situation and the measure of our forces. To lay the groundwork for a mass movement, we can start with a preliminary type of organization: the Intermediate Level. [1]

The intermediate level organization is a tool with which we can build a mass movement. It can create more favorable conditions for mass struggle, and be in place when mass struggle does erupt, to maximize its effectiveness and provide continuity through its inevitable ebbs and flows.

The intermediate level organization is neither a revolutionary organization nor a mass organization, but has characteristics distinct from both. As its name implies, it operates between the two, structurally and ideologically, and links them. Because it isn't well-defined in popular consciousness, it is often confused with one or the other level.

These categories, defined by levels of consciousness and commitment, are not rigid, and a group can blend them or change from one to another according to circumstances. Their relationship is dialectical, each level acting upon and influencing the others. Their boundaries are permeable, with individuals able to move from one level to another, or to operate in more than one at a time. Some of their elements differ only in degree or emphasis. The levels are generally characterized as follows:

Revolutionary organization

- A high level of theoretical, ideological and political unity
- A common long-term goal, a comprehensive strategy, and a detailed plan to implement that strategy
- Continuously developing methods of work, and systematic summation of that work
- A process, honed through practice, of collectively shaping ideas, direction and policies
- A membership of cadre who have dedicated their lives to the struggle

- A structure that is configured to withstand repression

Mass organization

- Unity based on common interests to achieve a specific goal (such as a union fighting for higher wages, or a coalition to stop a war)
- Ideologically and politically broad, often vague or populist
- A simple goal and/or strategy, usually limited to one issue, often short-term
- Membership requirements are loose, and expectations are not strict
- A basically open structure-anyone can join

Intermediate organization

- A level of unity that defines and opposes the system as a whole, yet refrains from defining a specific strategy for eliminating it (thus is able to embrace members with various theories)
- A goal of uniting all who can be united for a medium-range goal (the precise content of which is not fixed, but dependent upon historical circumstances and the changing level of class consciousness among the masses—for example, it could currently be to defeat global capitalism) without attempting to unify on long-term goals (such as the precise form of a future society)
- Collectivity in developing common plans and tactics for achieving the medium-range goal
- Non-sectarian and mutually supportive
- Continuously improve methods and practice through collective summation
- A membership with some level of accountability and commitment beyond "weekend warrior"
- A semi-open or invitation-only (but not clandestine) structure

The revolutionary level is indispensable and ultimately determinate - without

its presence, the other two tend to lose themselves in the murky dead ends of spontaneity, such as reformism and economism. This does not mean that the intermediate level is a front group for revolutionaries - care must be taken to avoid inadvertently forming a top-down bureaucratic structure. Each level must function autonomously and to its own fullest potential.

The intermediate level addresses limitations of the other levels

The revolutionary organization and the mass organization each faces specific obstacles during periods of low struggle, such as that from which we are currently emerging.

- Revolutionary organizations strain to connect with masses who are largely unreceptive. While the global system is still intact and appears strong, it's difficult for people to imagine that the alternatives presented by revolutionaries are possible to implement. Revolutionary organizations, as they struggle to retain their declining membership and their political identity during unfavorable periods, can either become rigid and dogmatic (increasing their isolation), or they can water themselves down in an effort to be more appealing, and be absorbed into the dominant political structure.

- Mass organizations are, under this system, usually dominated by institutionalized bureaucracies (i.e.: unions and NGOs) whose very functions are to divert the discontent of the masses into themselves and into compromise with capital. Many of them are funded by capitalist entities, turning political organizing into jobs involving social work or charity, and the organized into passive recipients of assistance. The non-funded ones tend to lack continuity: they are able to mobilize people for brief spurts but then lose support as issues fade. Mass organizations, by providing no analysis of the systemic nature of problems, are unable to break the system's ideological hegemony. Currently they are hobbled by a lack of class consciousness and swamped by liberalism and reformism.

An intermediate level organization addresses these obstacles from both directions, and prepares militants to

potentially work in all levels. It has two basic functions:

- to build a combative, continuously advancing mass movement that unites all who can be united to fight against the system
- to locate and train radicals who might also organize at the revolutionary level [2]

Organizing explicitly at the intermediate level can prevent the problems that occur when a group calling itself either a revolutionary or a mass organization is, in reality, mushing the levels together. Though the intermediate level organization is not widely understood, it is widely practiced (usually unknowingly). If a group proclaims to be revolutionary but hasn't yet achieved the degree of unity and commitment that revolutionary practice requires, then it is in fact an intermediary organization. If a group is attempting to build a mass organization but doesn't yet have a mass base, then it is in fact an intermediate level organization.

Confusion about levels leads to problems. For example, if revolutionary-minded people are working in an intermediate level organization but treat it as revolutionary, they tend to push for a higher level of unity than is appropriate, and don't fully value or take into account the ideological diversity that is present. There lies the danger of replacing genuine unity with pressure to conform. Revolutionaries can, if not careful, end up dominating an intermediate level group, preventing the less experienced people from developing their skills and knowledge, and blocking the free flow and exchange of new ideas.

Often those who do mass organizing are, in reality, also intermediate level organizers who are generating temporary mass mobilizations rather than the movements they are aiming for. With their higher levels of commitment and medium-range (as opposed to short-term) goals, intermediate level organizations can remain in existence through the ebb and flow of mass struggles.

They can provide continuity during dry periods, and continuously work

to bring people into motion. Their goal should be to constantly draw in new people to replace themselves as organizers at the mass level.

If intermediate level people work within mass organizations but treat them as intermediate, they also can make the mistake of pushing for a higher level of unity than is appropriate for that particular work. Instead they can (and should) work autonomously within mass struggles as an intermediate tendency, representing their own distinct political level within the mass movement. In this way they can avoid being swamped by the liberalism and reformism characteristic of today's mass organizations.

Organizations advance in an ongoing process

As the system goes deeper into crisis, as its cracks widen and struggle erupts in society, people become increasingly radicalized. Mass organizations become more robust and more explicitly political - in effect, they become the intermediate level. As this occurs, the intermediate level gives way to them and dissolves into them. New intermediate levels then form at yet higher levels, in a continuous process that, like a conveyor belt, pulls people in the direction of revolutionary consciousness and organizational forms.

At the same time, revolutionary organizations also advance, working toward more refined bases of theoretical, ideological and political unity. As events escalate, and as organizations ever more effectively express and embody the demands of the increasingly class-conscious masses, these organizations can grow and coalesce into a powerful social force capable of leading fundamental social transformation.

Events are moving rapidly, and we need to be out there, everywhere, collectively sparking and fanning the mass struggles that are necessary to end the nightmare of global capitalism.

We need as many people as possible to be prepared and able to quickly respond when mass struggle does erupt (which will likely be sudden and surprising). We need to forge strong, competent organizations and movements that can not be shaken, derailed or pacified. We can contribute to this process now by building organizations at the intermediate level.

Notes:

[1] The concept was implemented in 1979 by the Workers Committee of Rockland County (NY), as well as by a group of Haitian revolutionaries to build a mass movement based among workers and peasants during the fall of Duvalier. More recently, it has been articulated in a paper "The Intermediate Level Analysis," by S. Nappalos for Miami Autonomy and Solidarity (posted on 11/24/11 at: <http://miami-autonomy-and-solidarity.wordpress.com/2010/11/24/the-intermediate-level-analysis/>).

The South Florida group One Struggle was initiated on the basis of the intermediate level concept in 2010.

[2] For our present purposes, this term is general and applies to any organization with a long-term goal of social transformation, whether this involves insurrection, overthrow, dismantling, seizing, smashing, or any other type of activity that results in a fundamental shift in power relations.

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CODE GREEN

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Points of Unity

Capitalism/imperialism is an economic system constructed for the purpose of theft and accumulation of wealth for those in power, regardless of what it does to the rest of humanity and the planet. Its builtin drive for profit has caused measureless human misery all over the world, and is threatening the very existence of life on Earth.

Social struggles against oppression - including but not limited to patriarchy, racism, homophobia, oppression of immigrants, the ongoing theft of land and domination of indigenous people - plus the fight against imperialist wars and international domination, as well as the fight to save the planet from ecocide, are all interconnected.

We support the fight against imperialist wars and international domination, as well as the struggle of the popular masses in all dominated countries against their own dominant classes and against global capitalism, and for self-determination.

It is all ONE STRUGGLE.

The mission of One Struggle is to participate in the construction of combative mass popular organizations and mass popular democratic movements by engaging in the struggles of these dominated classes in which we belong. We will engage in these struggles from a non-sectarian perspective. We will share information, build solidarity and coordinate activities among those involved in social justice, anti-imperialist and environmental struggles, so that we can strengthen our fight against our common enemy: the global capitalist system.



Mobilizations and Mass Movements

This is a discussion of two approaches employed in organizing at the mass level: mobilizations and mass movements. Mobilizations typically entail calling on people to participate in rallies, protests and other actions. A mass movement pushes dialogue and strategizing from the revolutionary or intermediate levels to the mass level, building organization and consciousness through continuity of practice.

Mobilizations and organized mass movements are two distinct and essential tools we must wield in our fight to defeat capitalism. They exist in dialectical relation to one another, with the organized mass movement as the main goal. Mobilizations have two roles: they are both a method to build a movement, and they are the outward expression of the organized movement.

The needs of the mass movement should determine the ways in which people are mobilized, and in turn, mobilizations must perennially consolidate and reinforce our efforts to build the movement. The organized movement is the point - any mass mobilizations that do not contribute to building and strengthening it are meaningless activist endeavors that lead nowhere.

Mobilization is the collective response, spontaneous or organized, of the dominated and/or oppressed masses to either oppose measures taken by the dominant classes (defensive), or to make demands that are in their interests (active).

Types of Mobilization:

***Defensive:** This is the response (organized or spontaneous) by the dominated and/or exploited masses to reactionary measures taken by the dominant classes in general, or by the capitalist class in the US.

***Active:** This is the demand (organized or spontaneous) by the dominated and/or exploited masses for political, social and economic rights. These popular demands pressure the system to change, and while they expose

the oppressive nature of the system, these struggles also contain the inherent danger of being co-opted by the system without changing its fundamental exploitative nature, by winning changes in bourgeois law and objectively enlarging bourgeois democracy. Historical examples include the achievement of voting rights for women, the Civil Rights struggle, and the fight for workers rights such as a higher minimum wage and the eight-hour day.

The active mobilization might be used to win some concessions or to "make our voices heard" - in other words, to popularize the struggle more broadly in society. The demands might be partial (presented in stages less than total transformation). If they are, for example, in a workplace, they might be directed at one or a group of industries, and could be local or national. These demands have the potential to affect local industries or even entire societies.

***Spontaneous:** Collective spontaneous mobilizations are usually short-lived, with limited demands. Within these types of mobilizations, there is a dialectical relationship between combativity and political consciousness, with combativity being the dominant and determinant aspect. This is a problem because the participants have not adequately defined the nature of the enemy, their demands and their longterm objectives. This makes them vulnerable to being easily pacified and having their demands easily recuperated. Also, when political consciousness is not in command of combativity, a mobilization can become self defeating and even, in the final analysis, a gift to the bourgeois propaganda machine.

***Organized:** Collective organized responses are more defined, with an appropriate balance between political consciousness and combativity. The participants' understanding of the enemy is deepening, and becomes increasingly rational. They develop the methods to build organization, the capacity to advance, the ability to retreat to defend gains, and to handle repression. This type of mobilization fosters determination and stamina, and can better endure the test of time.

Mobilization does not happen by magic. It is the masses' response to atrocity or to intolerable conditions. Even if this response is combative, and might appear radical, it could be limited to a demand for reforms and stay stuck in reformism.

It is very difficult to discuss mobilizations separately from the organizational capacity of mass movements. We must also examine the role of the revolutionary and intermediary level organizations in relation to mass movements. Before we define and elaborate on these organizational forms and their relationships, we will discuss two tools of mobilization: agitation and propaganda.

***Agitation:** This expresses an issue in a concise manner and calls people to action. Agitational materials include leaflets, posters, radio, television, social networking and other media. Their purpose is to bring issues to the attention of the people through active presence in popular neighborhoods, workplaces and schools as well as to spread them beyond direct contact by using communications technologies like the Internet. Agitation seeks to arouse the outrage of the masses, and to connect with people who are already outraged. Raising political consciousness, though undertaken, is secondary to fostering combativeness.

Agitation and propaganda foster a dialectical relationship between the popular masses and the organizational structures (mass, intermediary and revolutionary organizations). These structures must be comprised of the masses (the classes, fractions of classes and social categories) they aim to organize. The purpose of agitation and propaganda is to construct and develop organizations at all levels. The purpose, in turn, of these organizations is to facilitate autonomous collective power, capacity and consciousness at all levels.

For agit/prop to be effective at mobilization, it must express the character of the dominated and/or exploited classes that it is directed to.

We must, at all organizational levels, be very aware of whom we are addressing and the interrelations between the various classes.

For example, many students have a middle class background, while another large sector of students have parents who are in the working class and/or the social category of working people, and some students are working people themselves. To be effective, agit/prop must take these factors into consideration.

In creating effective agit/prop, organizations are well advised to implement the Mass Line, which is an organizing method that bases itself on the principle "from the masses, to the masses." This means participating in the struggles of the masses, basing our practice on their concerns and ideas (as well as objective conditions), and bringing to these struggles our understanding of the nature of the system and the goal of transformation.

This back-and-forth relationship between the organized level and the masses can help us avoid these common errors:

- *Tailgating the masses (expressing the lowest common denominator and weakening our demands)

- *Sending wrong messages

- *Making erroneous calls for action that don't correspond to the mood of the people or objective conditions

- *Over - or underestimating the capacity of the masses or sectors we are trying to mobilize

- *Misunderstanding the conditions, or the relative strength and weaknesses of the popular forces in relation to the enemy

- *Proposing pompous slogans that don't connect with people, with long-term demoralizing and demobilizing effects

- *Falsely inflating the struggle through exaggeration, which inevitably leads to deflating it

Goals are long-term aims; priorities are immediate activities along the path

to our goals. We should not confuse the two, but always be clear about the dialectical relationship between them. Once we define our goals, we can work out our priorities. Mobilizations are priorities- they are mainly a tactic to gather forces (keeping in mind both quantitative and qualitative concerns) to build organized mass movements.

The mobilizations of students in the 1960s did not clearly define goals, or demarcate the line between goals and priorities. As a result, the mobilizations ended up becoming the movement themselves, rather than being an integral (yet distinct) element in constructing the movement. This resulted in the compartmentalization of the mobilizations into various political organizations that became isolated from the masses, and the dissolution of the mass movement.

Mobilizations can represent the interests of a variety of classes, and must be differentiated accordingly. Lately, reactionary mobilizations have been defending the interests of different sectors of the capitalist class in the US, represented by the competition between the Republican and Democratic parties. The contradictions between these sectors are secondary to their commonality - there is no road to revolution, nor even the possibility of significant reform, within the current capitalist/imperialist framework. Even when mobilizations appear populist, if they represent any fractions of the capitalist class they are, today, inherently reactionary. This is true of both the Democrats' recent One Nation rally, and the right-wing Tea Party mobilization.

We must define a political line to divert the vast sections of the masses who are currently being led by these reactionary classes. We must win them over to our side, while avoiding the pitfalls of class collaborationism and opportunism/populism. When we initiate mobilizations with the goal of constructing mass democratic organizations and combative mass movements, our orientation must be anti-exploitation, anti-domination and antiimperialist.

The role of organized structures:

The revolutionary level and the mass level are interdependent and at the same time autonomous. To survive, they must relate to each other dialectically, each affecting and helping the other to realize its potential and aims.

Two aspects of their relative autonomy must be understood:

- *The autonomous practice of the revolutionary level in pursuing its particular objectives

- *The presence of the revolutionary level within the mass organization. Here we will discuss only the latter. When working within the mass level, the revolutionary has several objectives:

- *To struggle against reformist tendencies. There is a thin line separating the struggle for reforms, and having a reformist political orientation, or line. The danger of recuperation by the bourgeoisie of struggles for reforms is constant, since most reforms, if won, will become bourgeois laws.

- * To build political rapprochement with the masses to define which mobilizations for reforms are a priority. These mobilizations are not a goal in themselves - they are tactical in nature and in content, and their goal is to constantly weaken the system and strengthen the revolutionary potential of the organized masses. These are perennial under capitalism.

- * To expose the fact that at this stage of imperialism, capitalism has reached its peak and is reactionary to the core, and can not reform itself. To make demands for reforming it is useless.

The conceptualization of these mass organizations is not pre-determined, but will unfold during the process of struggle. As instruments of struggle and power, they need to be constructed in forms that are highly democratic, if they are to be resilient and creative enough to challenge and defeat the dominant system.

The underpinning and fundamental elements of power must be popular democratic structures and practice.

The masses must control all organized structures. Trust must be built between the revolutionaries and the masses. Accountability will be essential in theory and in practice.

Errors to avoid:

*Revolutionaries should avoid the vanguardist mentality that would lead them to attempt to bureaucratically control mass organizations, or mechanically take leadership of them. If this error is made, the mass level structure will rapidly become a front organization, the masses will abandon it, and it will degenerate into a head without a body.

*We must avoid confusing the two levels. Instead we must conceptualize the two levels in our theoretical model, and respect their relative autonomy. If we make the error of bringing revolutionary level discussion into the mass level, we render the latter obsolete and sterile. This would have the consequence of depleting the mass levels, since the democratic structures for its views to manifest would no longer exist.

The intermediary level

The objective of the intermediary level is to participate alongside and in some unity with the revolutionary level (but short of that level) to construct mass level organizations. The intermediary level is comprised of large political organizations organizing within the popular classes and/or social categories, with the goal of building combative mass organizations, and participating as the most politically advanced detachments of their classes in the struggle against exploitation and domination, in the ways most appropriate to the current historical period.

Points for further reflection and future elaboration:

- At what point the intermediary level organization becomes a mass organization.
- When this happens, what happens to the initial or most advanced core?
- How to avoid being a front group.
- Be theoretically aware of the moment we are in, and appropriately navigate the inevitable waxing and waning of

opportunity.

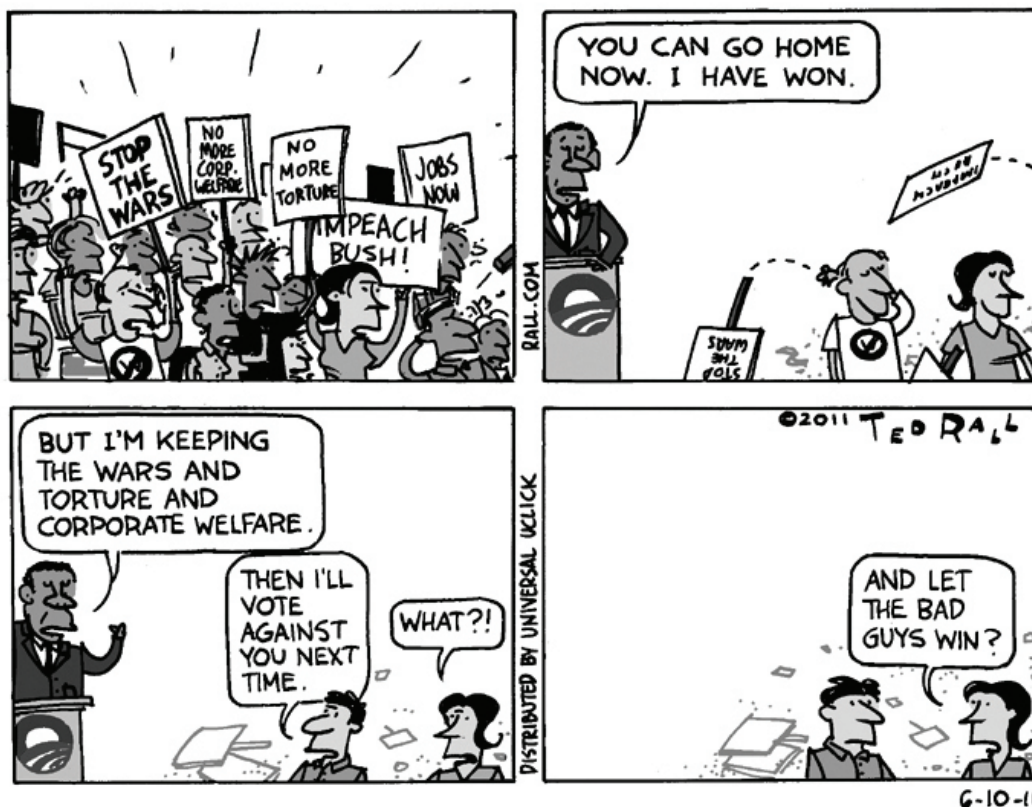
- Identifying the classes and social categories to organize. This should reflect the social origin of the initial core and/or the class position of the initial core.

- Build a democratic structure of functioning from the start. (This doesn't necessarily mean that the organization is open). The intermediary level/large political organizations are the embryonic constructions of mass organizations as instruments of struggle and instruments of power.

- Unity should be built around theoretical models, rather than around individuals.

Each of the points addressed in this presentation should be further developed as part of a theoretical model to be produced and constantly questioned. The objective of this piece is to lay the groundwork for constructing combative mass organizations.

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Unite Our Struggles Against Exploitation and Ecocide

Our Planet, Our People, Are Not Expendable

Our Common Enemy Is Global Capitalism

Capitalism is the economic system that dominates the planet. It runs on the exploitation of human labor to turn the living world into dead commodities, for the profit of a few. The small, powerful minority who own the means of production enforce their dominance through their control over political and cultural institutions, and their monopoly on force. They create a situation of dependency - forcing us to work for them to obtain basic needs like food and shelter. They annihilate those who resist or refuse to assimilate.

This system values profit over life itself. It has been built on land theft and destruction, genocide, slavery, deforestation and imperialist wars. It commits numberless atrocities as a matter of routine daily functioning. It kills nearly 10 million children worldwide under age 5 each year, because it's not profitable to save them.* It kills 100,000 people annually in the US by denying decent health care. More than 54% of the US discretionary budget is spent on imperialist aggression. Recent casualties include more than a million civilians in Iraq, and more than 46,000 American soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The economic and psychological violence wrought upon the world's inhabitants is so extensive and comprehensive that it's effectively all-encompassing.

The system is killing the entire planet, the basis for all life. It's converted 98% of old growth forests into lumber.

80% of rivers worldwide no longer support life. 94% of the large fish in the oceans are gone. Phytoplankton, the tiny plants that produce half of the oxygen we breathe, have declined by 40% since 1950. 120 species per day become extinct.

Industries produce 400 million tons of hazardous waste every year. Recently, the water in 89% of US cities tested has been found to contain the carcinogen hexavalent chromium. To feed capitalism's insatiable need for economic expansion, increasingly dangerous methods of energy extraction are being perpetrated: deep sea drilling, oil extraction from tar sands, mountaintop removal, fracking. No matter the consequences, no matter what the majority of people may want, those in power insist on (and enforce) their non-negotiable right to poison the land, water and air in pursuit of maximum profit.

The threat to our common existence on Earth is accelerating and intensifying. This is a situation of extreme urgency.

Clearly, a global economic system based on perpetual expansion is unsustainable. A system characterized by oppression and coercion is pure misery for the majority. The obvious conclusion is that we need to get rid of it, and change to a way of life that doesn't involve exploitation and ecocide. But first we must face one hard fact: this system won't stop unless it's stopped. It can not be escaped, reformed, redeemed, cajoled, abandoned, or rejected. The system must be fought, defeated and dismantled.

The global economy is currently falling deeper into a convergence of deep crises. This presents us with a rare opportunity to build resistance. More than an opportunity, this is also

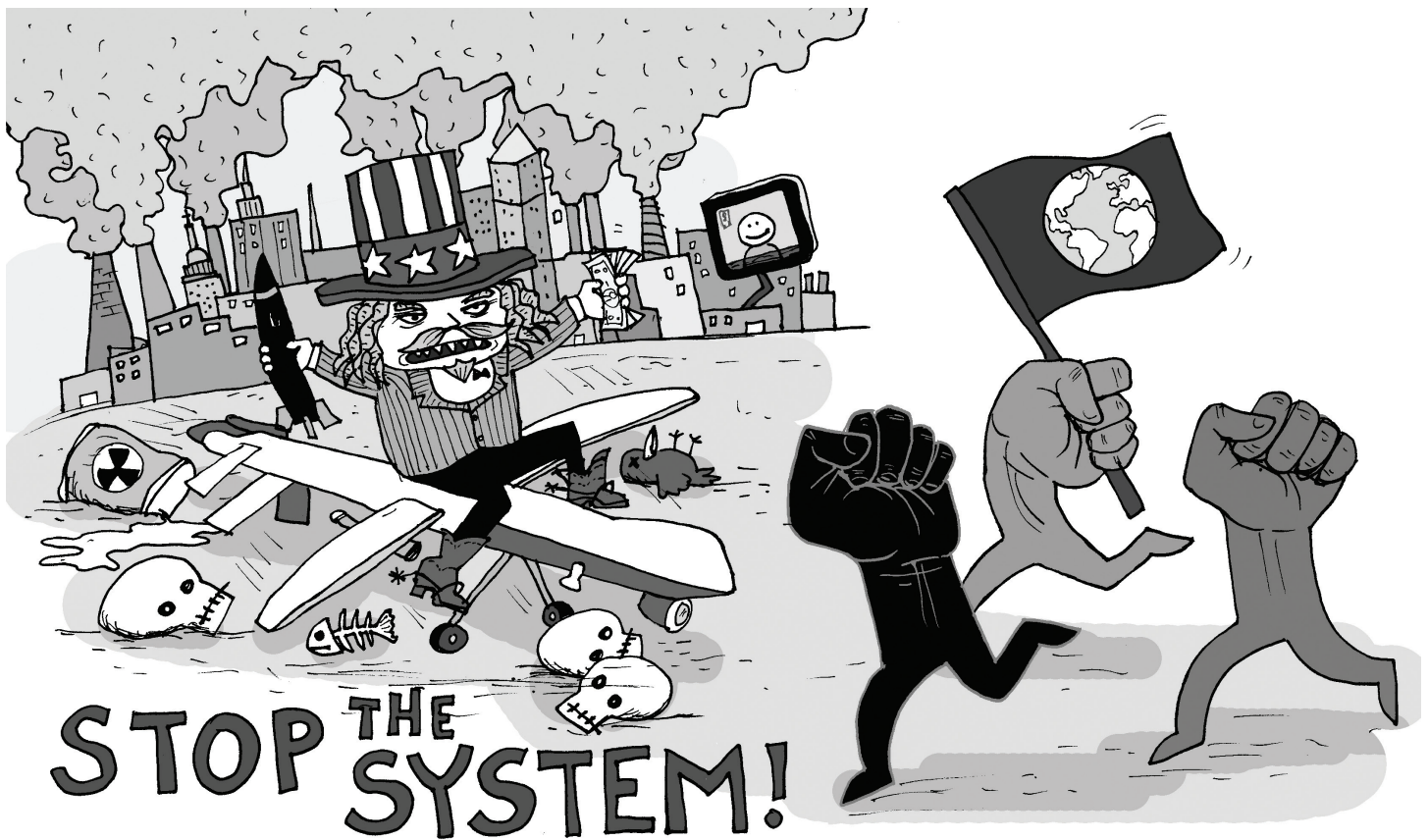
a necessity, and our responsibility. This situation is crying out for action.

Yet inside the U.S., the most aggressive and destructive imperialist nation to ever exist, our movement is weak and fragmented, unable to adequately respond. Our habitual modes of opposition (like protests and demonstrations) no longer seem to work in the ways they once did, and we are unsure how to best proceed. Currently there is no organizational formation that is capable of engaging this situation on the scale that is required. Yet there are countless individuals and small groups who, though we may disagree on much, share the desire for a sustainable, classless alternative to this omnicidal system.

If we are to survive, we must develop ways to work together to combat global capitalism and its crimes, and ultimately bring it down. Individually we are weak and ineffective; together we are strong. We must build a movement that embraces our political and ideological diversity, and our independent autonomy, while creating mechanisms for common and complementary action. The struggles to end all forms of domination, oppression and ecocide are intertwined. If we can unite our energies, we will increase our chances for success.

Let's unite and organize to destroy global capitalism, before it destroys us.

** Most of these children die from easily preventable and treatable causes such as birth complications, diarrhea, pneumonia, measles and malnutrition. State of the World's Mothers 2008: Closing the Survival Gap for Children Under 5, Save the Children.*



One Struggle South Florida regularly hosts panels, lectures, & film screenings in Miami Dade & Broward counties as well as supporting local class struggles. Log onto **onestrugglesouthflorida.wordpress.com** to see our latest events and news.

To get the latest One Struggle news or get upcoming newsletters e-mail onestuggle.southflorida@gmail.com or find us on facebook.

OS strongly supports the burgeoning “Occupy Wall Street” movement in its attempts to create a permanent struggle against predatory financial capital nightmare!

occupytogether.org
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Recommended Links

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CAPITALISM